Activity 5
Word differences in Cree-Innu

Words, as well as pronunciations, can differ among the Cree-Innu languages. One example of this is the word used to make a **negative** sentence, which is quite different depending on the language spoken; however, in all the languages the negative word is always placed before the verb.

Instructions:

► Open the Linguistic Atlas found at www.atlas-ling.ca.
► Go to the 'at the store' category.
► Select the phrase "I'm not going."
► Click on each marker on the map and listen carefully.
► When you find the speakers listed below, copy the first word on the corresponding line.

How is the negative word different for each speaker?

Negative

► Caroline Gabriel - Innu - Matimekush _____ ituteian

► Kanani Penashue - Innu - Sheshatshiu _____ tshituteian

► Brigitta Piwas Aylward - Innu - Mushuau _____ nui tshituten

► Thomas Poker - Innu - Mushuau _____ ma nui tshituten

► Silas Nabinicaboo - Naskapi - Western _____ ni-ki-ituhtaan

► Margaret Cox - East Cree - North _____ niki iituhtaan

► Candice Diamond - East Cree - South - Coastal _____ nika uhchi ihtuuhten

► Leda Corrigal - Plains Cree _____ nika-itohtān

► Minnie McKenzie - Woodland Cree - South _____ nika-itohtān

Answer:

► Innu - Matimekush	**apu**	ituteian
► Innu - Sheshatshiu	**apu**	tshituteian

► Innu - Mushuau - Brigitta	**ama**	nui tshituten
► Innu - Mushuau - Thomas	**ama**	nui tshituten
► Naskapi - Western	**nama**	ni-ki-ituhtaan
► East Cree - North	**nimui**	niki iituhtaan
► East Cree - South - Coastal	**namui**	nika uhchi ihtuuhten
► Plains Cree	**namwāc**	nika-itohtān
► Woodland Cree - South	**namwāc**	nika-itohtān

There are two negative words: 'apu' and variations of 'nama'.
Note that with 'apu' a different verb conjugation (the conjunct) is used than with 'nama' (the independent) which uses a personal prefix 'ni/n-' and a future marker 'ui' or 'ki/ka'.